

R 251703Z AUG 88  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3560  
INFO GULF WAR COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS ROME 19700

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [IR](#) [IZ](#) [IT](#)

SUBJECT: GUILT FOR THE GULF WAR: IRAQ PAYS FOR AD TO  
GIVE ITS SIDE

1. THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT PAID FOR A HALF-PAGE  
ADVERTISEMENT WHICH APPEARED IN THE AUGUST 25 ISSUE OF  
ROME'S CENTRIST "IL MESSAGGERO." ENTITLED "IRAN-IRAQ:  
WHO STARTED THE WAR," THE IRAQI AD DETAILS "A SERIES  
OF (IRANIAN) VIOLATIONS AND MILITARY AGGRESSIONS"  
AGAINST IRAQ IN 1979 AND 1980, LEADING UP TO SEPTEMBER  
22, 1980, WHEN IRAQ "WAS FORCED TO EXERCISE ITS RIGHT  
TO LEGITIMATE DEFENSE." THE IRAQI STATEMENT STRESSES  
THAT, DESPITE IRAQ'S "FAVORABLE ACCEPTANCE" OF  
KHOMEINI'S REGIME, IRAN "CLAIMED" ITS RIGHT TO  
"EXPORT" THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION "WITH THE USE OF  
FORCE," SELECTING IRAQ AS ITS FIRST TARGET. IRAN, THE  
IRAQIS CLAIM, "INSTIGATED" CIVIL UNREST IN IRAQ,  
HOSTED AND AIDED BARZANI'S IRAQI-KURDISH OPPOSITION  
GROUP, UNILATERALLY BACKED OUT OF THE IRAN/IRAQ 1975  
ACCORD ON THE SHATT-EL-ARAB, AND CARRIED OUT A SERIES  
OF ATTACKS AGAINST IRAQI TERRITORY.

2. COMMENT: WITH THE DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN IRAN AND  
IRAQ SET TO GET UNDERWAY IN GENEVA IT LOOKS LIKE THE  
IRAQIS ARE AT LAST TRYING TO PUT OUT THEIR SIDE OF THE  
STORY ON THE WAR'S ORIGINS.

RABB